

The African Shuffle

A funny thing happened to KWAME NKRUMAH on his way back to Ghana. He stopped off in neighboring Guinea, where PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE apparently decided to step down as head of state so that the recently deposed Ghanaian dictator would have a country to rule. This comic-opera shuffle seems almost totally unprecedented.

The move may pose a few problems for the nomadic NKRUMAH, whose new job was announced, significantly, by Guinea's *roving* ambassador, ABDULLAYE DIALLO. He will have to learn a new language, since French is spoken in Guinea and English in Ghana, and he'll have to get used to sitting on a somewhat less exalted throne—as Guinea's population is less than half the size of Ghana's. But he and TOURE do have one thing in common: Both are winners of the Lenin Peace Prize.

In any event, the unusual move opens up all sorts of intriguing possibilities and opportunities for deposed, exiled and retired rulers everywhere.

Ghana's military leaders, who ousted NKRUMAH, are said to be anxious to turn the country over to civilian rule as soon as possible. There are plenty of recently ousted African heads of state to choose from, but the Congo's MOISE TSHOMBE might be the best choice.

When and if Spain's FRANCO and Portugal's SALAZAR choose to retire, they might be replaced

by, say, Cuba's BATISTA or Argentina's PERON. And if the CIA could ever manage to engineer the overthrow of Indonesia's SUKARNO and North Viet Nam's HO CHI MINH, we suggest CHIANG KAI-SHEK and MADAME NHU as available and suitable replacements.

One of the main reasons NKRUMAH was thrown out of Ghana was that in a nine-year spending spree he had bankrupted the country, though he managed to accumulate a personal fortune in excess of seven million dollars. The new government there has already appealed to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and elsewhere for emergency aid of 50 million dollars as a starter. That shouldn't really be necessary.

Why, Ghana could probably wipe out its debts almost overnight, now that NKRUMAH has a new country to rule. He spent millions of dollars building statues of himself. Last year alone, though Ghana was virtually broke, it budgeted \$420,000 for monuments to the "redeemer."

Usually when dictators are overthrown their statues are smashed to powder. But because SEKOU TOURE has been generous enough to turn his country over to NKRUMAH, the new leaders of Ghana have a golden opportunity to market all those monuments. But they'd better sell them fast. There's no telling how long Guinea will want to put up with NKRUMAH.

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